

TOYS

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

THE AI FILES - BOOK 2 | J. STEVEN | GRADES 4-8

Discuss with your group. Support your ideas with moments from the story. Different interpretations are welcome.



BIG IDEA Good intentions are not enough. Before helping, understand the goal, question warning signs, and consider who could benefit or be harmed.

DISCUSS & DEFEND

- 1 When did the toys' help become enabling? Identify one moment when they should have stopped and reconsidered.
- 2 What clues suggest the toys are fighting the wrong problem? Why do they fail to investigate those clues?
- 3 The owner grows happier while the toys become stressed and less playful. Was their help truly successful? Why or why not?
- 4 Why do the toys dismiss Zombie's warning? What can make people ignore information they do not want to hear?
- 5 The toys become more efficient but understand less. Is efficiency always a sign of progress? Explain.
- 6 Who shares responsibility: the owner, the toys, the technology, or someone else? Do good intentions reduce responsibility? Why?

CREATE A CHECKPOINT

Imagine the toys could pause before completing each new task. Write one question they should be required to ask before acting. Explain how asking that question might have changed the story.
